

# India's Action on the Paris Agreement

## India's Action on the Paris Agreement: A Commitment to Sustainability

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, is a landmark international treaty that unites nations in combating climate change and limiting global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. As a key global player, India has demonstrated its commitment to this agreement through ambitious climate action and sustainable development initiatives.

## India's Commitments Under the Paris Agreement

India's pledges are outlined in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which highlight its goals to achieve sustainable growth while addressing climate change. The main components of India's NDCs include:

### 1. Reducing Emission Intensity:

India aims to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030 from 2005 levels. This reflects a strong commitment to low-carbon economic growth.

### 2. Increasing Renewable Energy Capacity:

India plans to achieve 50% of its cumulative power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. This includes ambitious targets such as reaching 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by the same year.

### 3. Enhancing Carbon Sequestration:

India has committed to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through afforestation and reforestation activities by 2030.

### 4. Adaptation and Resilience:

India prioritizes climate adaptation strategies to protect vulnerable communities, enhance water resources, and ensure food security.

## India's Key Actions and Initiatives

To honor its commitments, India has launched several programs and policies aimed at transforming its energy landscape and promoting sustainable development.

### 1. Renewable Energy Transition

India is rapidly scaling up its renewable energy capacity, particularly in solar and wind power. The *International Solar Alliance (ISA)*, an Indian-led initiative, fosters global collaboration to promote solar energy adoption. Additionally, India's ambitious *National Solar Mission* aims to generate 280 GW of solar power by 2030.

## **2. Electric Mobility Push**

Under the *Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME)* scheme, India is promoting electric vehicles (EVs) to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and curb vehicular emissions.

## **3. Energy Efficiency Programs**

The *Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT)* scheme and *Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)* program have significantly reduced energy consumption and emissions across sectors.

## **4. Forest Conservation and Reforestation**

The *National Afforestation Programme* and *Green India Mission* are driving efforts to increase forest cover and restore degraded ecosystems, contributing to India's carbon sink target.

## **Challenges in Meeting Targets**

While India is making substantial progress, challenges persist. Rapid urbanization, industrial growth, and energy demands pose hurdles to emission reduction goals. Financial constraints, technology access, and policy implementation gaps also complicate the journey.

## **Global Recognition and Future Outlook**

India's proactive approach to the Paris Agreement has earned international recognition. By balancing economic growth with sustainability, India is setting an example for emerging economies. However, achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, as pledged at COP26, will require intensified efforts and global collaboration.

## **Conclusion**

India's actions on the Paris Agreement underscore its dedication to addressing climate change and promoting a sustainable future. With a strategic focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental conservation, India is contributing significantly to global climate action. As the nation continues to innovate and lead, its efforts will not

only meet international commitments but also secure a greener and more resilient future for generations to come. ☐☐

## **Cabinet Approves India's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): A Step Towards Climate Leadership ☐☐**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This decision marks a critical step in aligning India's climate goals with its long-term vision of sustainable development and climate justice. The updated NDC translates the "Panchamrit" pledge, announced at COP26 in Glasgow, into enhanced climate targets, paving the way for India's transition to a low-carbon economy and net-zero emissions by 2070.

### **India's Updated Climate Targets**

Under the revised NDC, India commits to:

1. **Reducing Emissions Intensity:** Cutting greenhouse gas emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels.
2. **Boosting Renewable Energy:** Achieving 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

These updated targets signify a bold leap from the previous goals outlined in 2015, which aimed to reduce emissions intensity by 33-35% and achieve 40% of cumulative power capacity from non-fossil fuels.

### **The Panchamrit Framework: India's Five Nectar Elements**

India's updated NDC embodies the five elements of the *Panchamrit* framework announced at COP26:

1. Achieving **500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity** by 2030.
2. Meeting **50% of energy requirements from renewable energy sources** by 2030.
3. Reducing **total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes** by 2030.
4. Cutting the **carbon intensity of the economy by 45%** by 2030.
5. Achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**.

### **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE): A Citizen-Centric Climate Vision**

Prime Minister Modi introduced the concept of *Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)* at COP26, emphasizing the role of sustainable living in combating climate change. The updated

NDC reflects this vision, advocating for a mass movement towards conservation-oriented lifestyles. LiFE encourages individuals and communities to adopt practices that are in harmony with nature, ensuring long-term environmental sustainability.

## **Key Measures to Achieve the Updated NDC Goals**

India's approach to climate action combines policy reforms, technological advancements, and financial incentives across sectors:

### **1. Renewable Energy Expansion**

- Launch of the *Production Linked Incentive (PLI)* scheme to boost manufacturing in renewable energy technologies.
- Strengthened focus on solar, wind, and green hydrogen energy projects.

### **2. Energy Efficiency Initiatives**

- Massive rollout of energy-efficient appliances through programs like *UJALA*, which has already led to annual emissions reductions of 40 million tonnes.
- Promotion of super-efficient technologies, including electric vehicles (EVs).

### **3. Decarbonizing Key Sectors**

- Indian Railways is on track to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, reducing 60 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

### **4. Forest and Biodiversity Conservation**

- Continuation of afforestation efforts under the *Green India Mission* to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

### **5. Circular Economy and Waste Management**

- Implementation of programs to enhance resource efficiency, promote a circular economy, and reduce waste generation.

## **Global Collaboration and Support**

While India has primarily funded its climate actions through domestic resources, international cooperation remains crucial. Developed countries must fulfill their commitments under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement to provide financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building support to developing nations like India.

# A Green Economy and Job Creation

India's updated NDC aligns with its broader goals of economic growth and employment generation. Investments in renewable energy, clean energy technologies, and sustainable infrastructure are expected to create millions of green jobs in sectors such as EV manufacturing, renewable energy deployment, and energy-efficient appliances.

## Conclusion

India's approval of its updated NDC reaffirms its leadership in global climate action. By integrating ambitious targets with the principles of equity, sustainable lifestyles, and climate justice, India is charting a pathway toward a cleaner, greener, and more resilient future. This step not only fulfills India's obligations under the Paris Agreement but also sets an example for emerging economies striving to balance development with environmental stewardship.

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